

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

8 RODNEY LYNN BUTCHEE,
9 Plaintiff,
10 v.
11 SOUTHERN DESERT CORRECTIONAL
12 CENTER et al.,
13 Defendants.
14

2:16-cv-01975-JCM-PAL

ORDER

11 This action is a *pro se* civil rights complaint filed pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 by a
12 former state prisoner. On February 24, 2017, this court issued an order dismissing the
13 complaint with leave to amend and directed plaintiff to file an amended complaint within thirty
14 (30) days. (ECF No. 5 at 8). The thirty-day period has now expired, and plaintiff has not filed
15 an amended complaint or otherwise responded to the court’s order.

District courts have the inherent power to control their dockets and “[i]n the exercise of that power, they may impose sanctions including, where appropriate . . . dismissal” of a case. *Thompson v. Hous. Auth. of City of Los Angeles*, 782 F.2d 829, 831 (9th Cir. 1986). A court may dismiss an action, with prejudice, based on a party’s failure to prosecute an action, failure to obey a court order, or failure to comply with local rules. See *Ghazali v. Moran*, 46 F.3d 52, 53-54 (9th Cir. 1995) (dismissal for noncompliance with local rule); *Ferdik v. Bonzelet*, 963 F.2d 1258, 1260-61 (9th Cir. 1992) (dismissal for failure to comply with an order requiring amendment of complaint); *Carey v. King*, 856 F.2d 1439, 1440-41 (9th Cir. 1988) (dismissal for failure to comply with local rule requiring *pro se* plaintiffs to keep court apprised of address); *Malone v. U.S. Postal Service*, 833 F.2d 128, 130 (9th Cir. 1987) (dismissal for

1 failure to comply with court order); *Henderson v. Duncan*, 779 F.2d 1421, 1424 (9th Cir. 1986)
2 (dismissal for lack of prosecution and failure to comply with local rules).

3 In determining whether to dismiss an action for lack of prosecution, failure to obey a
4 court order, or failure to comply with local rules, the court must consider several factors: (1)
5 the public's interest in expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the court's need to manage its
6 docket; (3) the risk of prejudice to the defendants; (4) the public policy favoring disposition of
7 cases on their merits; and (5) the availability of less drastic alternatives. *Thompson*, 782 F.2d
8 at 831; *Henderson*, 779 F.2d at 1423-24; *Malone*, 833 F.2d at 130; *Ferdik*, 963 F.2d at 1260-
9 61; *Ghazali*, 46 F.3d at 53.

10 In the instant case, the court finds that the first two factors, the public's interest in
11 expeditiously resolving this litigation and the court's interest in managing the docket, weigh in
12 favor of dismissal. The third factor, risk of prejudice to defendants, also weighs in favor of
13 dismissal, since a presumption of injury arises from the occurrence of unreasonable delay in
14 filing a pleading ordered by the court or prosecuting an action. See *Anderson v. Air West*, 542
15 F.2d 522, 524 (9th Cir. 1976). The fourth factor – public policy favoring disposition of cases
16 on their merits – is greatly outweighed by the factors in favor of dismissal discussed herein.
17 Finally, a court's warning to a party that his failure to obey the court's order will result in
18 dismissal satisfies the "consideration of alternatives" requirement. *Ferdik*, 963 F.2d at 1262;
19 *Malone*, 833 F.2d at 132-33; *Henderson*, 779 F.2d at 1424. The court's order requiring
20 plaintiff to file an amended complaint within thirty (30) days expressly stated: "IT IS FURTHER
21 ORDERED that, if [p]laintiff fails to file an amended complaint curing the deficiencies outlined
22 in this order, this action shall be dismissed, with prejudice, for failure to state a claim." (ECF
23 No. 5 at 8-9). Thus, plaintiff had adequate warning that dismissal would result from his
24 noncompliance with the court's order to file an amended complaint within thirty (30) days.

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1 It is therefore ordered that this action is dismissed with prejudice based on plaintiff's
2 failure to file an amended complaint in compliance with this court's February 24, 2017, order,
3 and for failure to state a claim.

4 It is further ordered that the clerk of court shall enter judgment accordingly.

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6 DATED: April 10, 2017.

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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